

LS-3016

Department of Justice  
Office of the Deputy Attorney General  
Washington

February 9 1953

Lawrence R. Houston, Esquire  
General Counsel  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

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Dear Mr. Houston:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 14, 1953, addressed to Mr. Foley, setting forth your suggestions as to how Section 20(a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950 should be amended to meet certain difficulties encountered by the Central Intelligence Agency because of the present wording of that Act.

As you know, this Department has already proposed amending Section 20(a) of the Internal Security Act by eliminating that section from the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 and substituting therefor a new Registration Act. This proposal has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget, with your Agency and with the Department of State, although it has not yet been transmitted to the Congress. I am enclosing herewith a copy of the Department's proposed legislation. ✓

You will note that Section 4 of the proposed Act does not require either a written disclosure or the necessity of employment before an exemption from registration is available, as is now the case.

The attached proposal, however, will not accomplish the basic objective of the Central Intelligence Agency, which desires to afford an exemption from the registration requirements to an individual concerning whom full information is in the possession of an intelligence agency of the United States, even though such information did not come from the individual himself. Consequently, it is suggested that the Act which this Department has proposed as a substitute for Section 20(a) of the Internal Security Act be amended by changing the wording of Section 4 to read as follows:

OGC HAS REVIEWED. DOJ & LEGL REVIEW COMPLETED

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

"Sec. 4. The registration requirements of section 2 shall not apply to any person

✓ (a) who has obtained knowledge of or received instruction or assignment in the espionage, counter-espionage or sabotage service or tactics of a foreign government or foreign political party by reason of civilian, military, or police service or employment with the United States Government, the governments of the several States, their political subdivisions, the District of Columbia, the Territories, or the Canal Zone; or

✓ (b) who has obtained such knowledge solely by reason of academic or personal interest not under the supervision of or in preparation for service with the government of a foreign country or a foreign political party; or

✓ (c) who has made full disclosure of such knowledge, instruction, or assignment to officials within an agency of the United States Government having responsibilities in the field of intelligence, which disclosure has been made a matter of record in the files of such agency, and concerning whom a written determination has been made by the Attorney General or the Director of Central Intelligence that registration would not be in the interest of national security; or

(d) concerning whom an agency of the United States Government having responsibilities in the field of intelligence has the pertinent information (concerning such individual) as a matter of record in its files and a written determination is made by the Attorney General or the Director of Central Intelligence, based on all information available, that registration would not be in the interest of national security."

*This is not possible in plain letters?  
27 Feb 1953*

If you are in agreement with this revised wording of Section 4, the necessary steps to amend the Act now proposed by this Department will be taken. Your advice in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

*William P. Rogers*

WILLIAM P. ROGERS  
Deputy Attorney General